

Hasan Barghouthi is a Palestinian trade unionist, well-known for his many years of struggles in the field of social and workers' rights. In 1979, he established the hotel workers' trade union in Jerusalem, and assumed its presidency for 3 years. He was arrested by the Israeli occupying forces and placed under house arrests for five years for defending the freedom of association of Palestinian workers. In 1993, he was one of the founders of the Democracy and Workers' Rights Center, a Palestinian non-governmental organization dedicated to defending workers' rights and promoting social justice and equity. Himself a trainer in labor education, Mr. Barghouthi has been an active member of the executive committee of the International Federation of Workers' Education Association since 2000 and has been elected as one of its vice-presidents in 2007. Dedicated in spreading workers' education not only in Palestine but throughout the Arab region, he promoted the establishment of workers' education organizations in several Arab countries. His contribution was instrumental in the establishment of the regional federation of the IFWEA in the Arab countries in 2004, of which he was elected general secretary. Mr. Barghouthi has an MA in political science and is currently writing his PhD thesis on the social impact of the relationship between political parties and trade unions.